Bats are indeed scary, night-flying, house-invading, sometimes rabid, and generally Halloween-y little critters. They're also bug-eating, very beneficial, and some are almost cute.
To learn more about bats, see these sites:
Introduction to Bats (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) http://www.fws.gov/endangered/bats/bats.htm
Bats and Rabies (Centers for Disease Control) http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats.html
Test Your Batting Average (National Park Service) http://www.nps.gov/archive/wica/Bats.htm
Bat Facts (Encyclopedia Smithsonian) http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_Sl/nmnh/batfacts.htm
The Adventures of Echo the Bat (NASA) http://science.hq.nasa.gov/kids/imagers/echohome.html
Have a safe and happy Halloween!
Lori